

Maryland Fish Health Import Requirements

The following requirements apply to finfish imported into Maryland. Each request for registration to import finfish into Maryland is reviewed by the Department's Fish Health Specialist, Regional Managers and Biologists to determine fish species, both cultured and wild, that may be impacted by such introductions. The restrictions listed, in addition to the consideration of the management objectives for the waterway, are used to grant or deny a request for registration.

CATEGORY I. Absolute avoidance

1. Mandatory screening of individual lots.
2. Detection in screened fish results in denial of permission to import.
3. If special methods are required for detection, then they must be used.

CATEGORY II. Avoidance desired, achieved by minimizing risk

1. Mandatory screening of individual lots.
2. Detection in screened fish results in denial of permission to import if:
 - a. clinical signs are present;
 - b. detection rate exceeds 10% of individuals examined, or exceeds 50% of known infection rate in wild or cultured stocks in receiving waters.
3. Special methods not required.

CATEGORY III. Avoidance recommended, but not mandatory

1. Mandatory screening of lots.
2. Detection in screened fish does not constitute cause for denial, but import of fish showing clinical signs is discouraged.
3. Special methods not required.

CATEGORY IV. Special Cases

Included in special cases: **A.** Diseases in fish species not native to the United States, or this area of the country, **B.** Unique, indigenous pathogens known to threaten wild or cultured stocks. Increased knowledge could move these diseases to other categories.

- A.**
 1. Mandatory screening not required.
 2. Detection will not block import; however, import of fish showing clinical signs is discouraged.
 3. No special methods required.
- B.**
 1. Mandatory screening required if the pathogen has been known to threaten cultured or wild stocks. Screening also required if information on disease and associated causes is unavailable (what we don't know can hurt us).
 2. Detection can constitute cause for denial to import.
 3. Special methods are required if it is the only method to detect unique pathogen.
 - 4.

All other pathogens are not reportable. However, fish showing clinical signs of any disease need to be avoided. Importation of diseased fish can have a direct negative impact on the reputation of a facility, and future marketing by the exporting facility.

CLASSIFICATION OF PATHOGENS IN MARYLAND

<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> (furunculosis)	II
Channel Catfish Virus (CCV)	I
Carp Pox Virus (CPV)	IV.A
<i>Ceratomyxa shasta</i>	I
<i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>	I
<i>Edwardsiella tarda</i>	I
Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHN)	I
Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPN)	III
<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> (whirling disease)	II
<i>Mycobacterium fortuitum</i>	II
<i>Mycobacterium marinum</i>	II
<i>Onchorhynchus masou</i> Virus	IV.A
Proliferative Kidney Disease Agent (PKD)	IV.A
<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i> (BKD)	II
Rhabdovirus Disease of Northern Pike Fry Virus (RDNPF)	IV.A
Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)	I
<i>Vibrio salmonicida</i>	I
<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> (enteric redmouth disease)	III